THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore during the year 2009-10 to State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for construction of hostels which includes funds for the proposals for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and also another fresh proposal for the year 2009-10.

Police sensitivity on women victims

3532. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the police remain insensitive to women victims of domestic violence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for women who seek protection from law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of all forms of crime against women, including domestic violence. Government of India has enacted various legislations to prevent crimes against women, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments. Government of India has been advising all the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to give more focused attention for prevention of crime against women.

(c) A detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 has been sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations (copy available on Ministry of Home Affair's website - www.mha.nic.in, wherein States have been directed to have a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness of the law and order machinery.

Provision already exists under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for appointment of Protection Officers who on receipt of a complaint of domestic violence shall inform the aggrieved person:

(i) of her right to make an application for obtaining relief by way of a protection order, an order for monetary relief, a custody order, a residence order, a compensation order or more than one such order;

(ii) of the availability of services of service providers;

(iii) of the availability of services of the Protection Officers;

(iv) of her right to free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987;

(v) of her right to file a complaint under Section 498-A of the India Penal Code, wherever relevant.